



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

May 21, 2017

Rural Life Sunday

Leading Worship: Norma Hain

Reading: Gerry Rya

Pianist: Joan Williamson

Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

Don't go outside your house to see the flowers. My friend, don't bother with that excursion. Inside your body there are flowers. One flower has a thousand petals. That will do for a place to sit. Sitting there you will have a glimpse of beauty inside the body and out of it, before gardens and after gardens. *Kabir*

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Celebrate the Light/Lighting of the Christ Candle and The Candle Representing our Churches Overseas

Gathering Hymn: MV #115 Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New *(please remain seated)*

Call to Worship – Moment of Quiet Centering:

One: Creator of the hummingbird and Milky Way, I am lost in wonder at your originality.

All: I glory in your handiwork: towering mountains, deep valleys, dense forests, expansive deserts, fathomless depths of blue below and immeasurable heights of blue above.

One: When I peer into the universe of the telescope and the universe of the microscope I stand in awe at the complexity and the simplicity, the order and the chaos, and the infinite variety of colours everywhere.

Today may we think of our affiliated churches overseas and support them through our Mission and Service fund as well as through our prayers. And today we acknowledge all those people who have journeyed to Canada to find and build a new life for themselves and for their families. Let us support them in all the ways that we can think of; particularly through thoughtful words and deeds.

Let us remember all those who need our support, those who are part of our church family, neighbours in the wider community, and all those we name as friend or loved ones. Let's take a moment of silence to centre our hearts and minds on making our relationships right.....

Great Gardener creator of all that is. We know that it is all good. Hear our prayer. Amen (N.J. Hain)

Closing Hymn: VU #303 For Beauty of Prairies

(please stand as you are able)

Blessing

May the Great Gardener be with me and with you.

Caressing me and caressing you with sunshine, raindrops and gentle breezes.

May the Great Gardener's tender love manifest in me and manifest in you and heal all hurts and sorrows. Amen.

Choral Closing: VU #958 Halle, Halle, Halle

(sung at least three times)

Postlude

U.C.W. Plant and Muffin Sale

will be held on

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the gym.

Price is \$5.00 for muffin and coffee.

Donations of indoor and outdoor plants would be very much appreciated.

All: When I watch the little creatures that creep upon the earth I marvel at: such purpose, such direction, such design. And yet such freedom, such openness, such creativity.

One: When I look around me at friends and family and the entire human race I am astounded at our diversity. We are all so unique and yet, we are all so similar.

All: I am overwhelmed by my senses day after day, year after year.

One: Creator of the hummingbird and the Milky Way, I am lost in wonder at your originality.

(Adapted from Richard Foster's a Prayer of Wonder)

Opening Hymn: VU #187 The Spring Has Come

(please stand as you are able)

Coming to a New Land – Jacqueline Orola-Ravino

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer – Jacqueline Orola-Ravino and family

WORD

Hymn: MV #41 O Beautiful Gaia (vs 1 & 2)

(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

- Melanie Davis

Hymn: MV #41 O Beautiful Gaia (vs 3 & 4)

(please remain seated)

Scripture Readings: Psalm 36: 7-9

Psalm 65 VU pg. 783 Sing - To Bless The Earth

Genesis 1: 11-13

We read these texts so that in them we may find wisdom for life.

May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: The Great Gardener

Choral Offering: Bangladeshi Garden

Jim Manley\Bill McKibbin

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Asian Heritage Month

Invitation to the Offering: From 2nd Corinthians 9: 6-8 we hear: "Remember this – a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop." Our offering will now be received.

Offering

Offertory Hymn: MV #30 It's A Song of Praise to the Maker

(please stand as you are able)

Offertory Prayer: (in unison)

Abundant life, you call us to let go of the things that we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in love and provision. May we bloom brightly.

Give us courage to step out boldly, to plant our small seeds generously and without fear. May we grow in wisdom and bloom brightly.

Use our gifts to accomplish more than we could ever imagine, so that through our compassion and loving action, justice may be done and your way of life and love will be spread to all the world. Amen

(Adapted from Canadian Foodgrains Bank worship resources)

Prayers of the People

Creator, Great Gardener, Maker of the Universe, we give you thanks this morning for the opportunity to volunteer our time and energy to be here in community. We are thankful to take a few minutes of our week to spend in contemplation that perhaps we might otherwise not find time to invest in.

We are so fortunate to live in a democratic country where we can express our opinions openly in a respectful manner without fear of oppression. Remind us of our civic responsibilities so that we maintain governments and laws that are fair and equitable.

We pray for those who live in parts of the world where human rights are not built into the political system.

Give us the energy to write to our MLA's and MP's to express our wishes, as to how our country can help other countries improve their circumstances.

Worship Schedule

May 28	Graduation Sunday - with communion	- Rev. Annette Taylor
June 4	UCW 55 th Anniversary	- First UCW
June 11	In the Beginning	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Lectionary Readings for May 28, 2017:

Acts 1:6–14

Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 (VU p. 787)

1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11

John 17:1–11

Annette is Away

Annette will be away for continuing education
from May 14 to 21.

She is attending the *Festival of Homiletics*,
a preaching conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Please contact the church office, in the case of a pastoral emergency.

Our next **“Loose Change Supper”**

will be held on

Tuesday, May 30th at 5:30 p.m.

**We will be serving barbequed hamburgers and hotdogs,
salads, watermelon, Rice Krispie cake, Puffed Wheat
cake**

and Sundae bar for dessert.

Please sign up at the church office by

Sunday, May 28th. 306-773-9353.

**We are also in need of helpers for cleanup after the
supper. Please contact the church if you are available to
help out.**